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June 12, 2000

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MIKE MOORE
Attorney General of Mississippi

Honorable Janet Reno
United States Attorney General
Department of Justice
Room # B-103
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Honorable Lawrence Summers
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Attorney General Reno and Secretary Summers:

As Attorneys General of our states, we are the chief law enforcement officers for our citizens, and we are each keenly committed to seeing that our streets and neighborhoods are safe and that our criminals are punished. We, undersigned Attorneys General are writing to you because technology now being developed and deployed by your agencies promises to help us substantially with these goals.

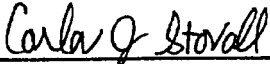
We refer of course to DrugFire and NIBIS, the systems that the FBI and ATF have developed and are implementing to scan bullets and cartridges, and trace them against computer databases to determine connections to known crime firearms, and the NIBIN program to join those systems together.

We are writing to you in the desire to see this technology coordinated as rapidly as possible, deployed into the field as broadly as possible, and expanded as a data base as widely as possible. We look forward to a day when at any gun crime scene in America, a van pulls up with the tracing equipment, cartridges found at the scene are scanned into the machine, the scanned image is checked against the joined computer data bases of the FBI and the ATF, the "matches" are selected by the computer and forwarded electronically to a firearms examiner, and the firearms examiner selects the best match and wires the result, together with information about the matched weapon, back to the police at the scene of the crime. Ideally, this could all happen while the cartridges were still warm.


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We are all aware of the deadly nature of gun crimes, and we are also aware of the extraordinary success that fingerprint and DNA matching have brought to law enforcement. This technology proposes to make a real difference in our communities by facilitating the detection and punishment of gun crimes, and connecting crimes together that otherwise might go unsolved. We hope that you see this project as an urgent need for the people of our communities, as we do. Please accept this letter as an expression of our most ardent support for this project, and our offer to do whatever is helpful and appropriate to assist in expediting its deployment into our communities to protect the citizens we serve.


Very truly yours,



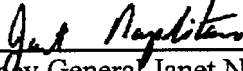
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Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse
Attorney General of Rhode Island




Attorney General Bruce Botelho
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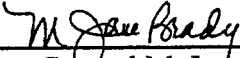
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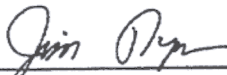


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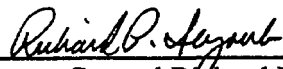


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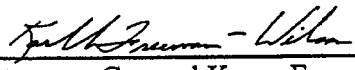
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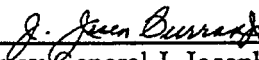
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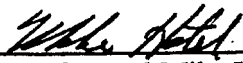
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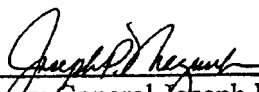
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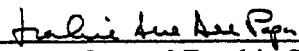
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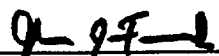
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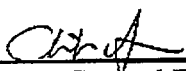
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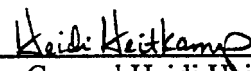
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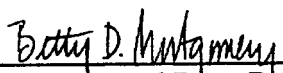
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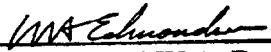


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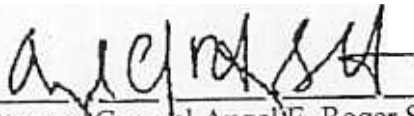


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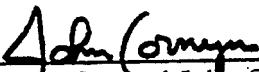
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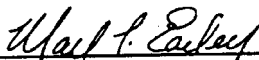
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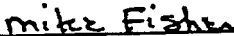
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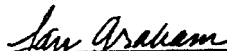
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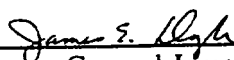
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